

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An aluminum pigment ~~having~~ containing aluminum particles, a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate covering the surface of each of said aluminum ~~partiele~~ particles and a silica coat comprising amorphous silica further covering said molybdenum coat.

2. (Original) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

3. (Original) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein the content of silicon is in the range of 1 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

4. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, further having a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on said silica coat.

5. (Currently Amended) The aluminum pigment according to claim 4, wherein said silane coupling agent is at least one compound selected from ~~compounds having the following structure:-~~ the group consisting of:

RA - Si(ORB)₃ ~~or~~ and RA - SiRB(ORB)₂, wherein

~~RA: alkyl group or aryl group or~~ RA is an alkyl group or an aryl group or an alkenyl
group, having ~~a carbon number of 2 to 18~~ 2 to 18 carbon atoms and
~~RB: RB is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 3~~ 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

6. (Currently Amended) A resin composition ~~containing~~ comprising the aluminum pigment according to claim 1 and a resin, wherein the content of said aluminum pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 30 percent by mass of overall said resin composition.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment, including the steps of:

forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each said aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound; and

forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound.

8. (Original) The method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment according to claim 7, wherein said step of forming said molybdenum coat on the surface of each said aluminum particle includes the step of employing one or at least two selected from a group consisting of

peroxidic polymolybdic acid, ammonium molybdate and phosphomolybdic acid as said molybdenum compound.

9. (Original) The method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment according to claim 7, wherein said step of forming said silica coat includes the step of employing one or at least two compounds selected from a group consisting of tetraethoxysilane and tetramethoxysilane as said organic silicon compound.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment according to claim 7, wherein said step of forming said silica coat includes the step of employing a basic catalyst as said hydrolytic catalyst for adjusting the pH of said dispersive solution in the range of 7.0 to 11.0.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment according to claim 7, wherein said step of forming said silica coat includes the step of employing one or at least two selected from a group consisting of triethanol amine, ammonia, ethylenediamine and 3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane as said hydrolytic catalyst.

12. (Original) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment including the steps of:

forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each said aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound;

forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound; and

forming a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on the surface of said silica coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said silica coat, said silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said silane coupling agent.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles each having a molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound, a silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound and said silane coupling agent for forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle while forming a coat prepared from said silane coupling agent thereon.